

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. (1876?) My dear Alec:

I have been busy all day and have delayed writing to you until now when it is late. Thank you for your letter dated Wednesday. I was very glad to have some more Visible Speech to read, I had quite given up hoping for more and was considering how I could get along on the scrap you gave me yesterday. But really Alec dear it is too selfish of me to let you take so much trouble. If you could do it at a proper season, I would be delighted to have such letters from you, but I cannot have you shorten your already far too short time of rest. Cannot you send me some old numbers of that paper you used to write the "Pioneer." Do your pupils never write in Visible Speech, and could you not send me some of their work, I would take good care of it and send it back the moment you want it. I do not deny that this will be far less interesting than your letters, and if you would write sometimes on Sunday (not in the evening) it would be very nice, but I cannot have you sitting up at night. I will work over what I have now and not be satisfied until I can remember just how every letter in every word is pronounced, there is surely no need of your working so hard as you have done.

Thanks for the permission to wear black. I had no intention of wearing heavy mourning, Auntie has just brought me two lovely white silk. Augusta has just brought your letter of April 19th yesterday. I am glad you secured Music Hall in time, and have no doubt that if you determine to have the concert, Oh it was a slip of the pen I beg a thousand pardons, lecture the best you have given, yet they will be so, I hope you will write them out and send me a copy. It was lucky Mr. Gower 2 was so quick. I will be sure to examine him very carefully when he calls and report impressions. I am glad you have taken my warnings to heart, pray don't carry out your threats, isn't it too bad to punish me for what I can't help?

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I will finish what I began when your letter came, Auntie gave me two white cravate, saying she hopes you would think them bridal next fall, and not imagine yourself going to a funeral! Isn't she lovely, she thought of them when I read that part of your letter to Mamma.

We had a telegram from Papa from Alabama, they spend Sunday in Charleston, S.C. I am tired this afternoon, pray excuse this. I wrote on the envelope of yesterday's letter asking you if you knew anything of Mamma's umbrella. She has found it at last after two days search. I can tell you she has been distracted over the loss of that umbrella. It makes me think how cooly you bore the disappearance of your far more expensive coat.

I have always forgotten to tell you Grandpa saw a notice of the indefinite postponement of your lecture here in the Evening Post of Monday or Tuesday. I looked all through the Monday paper, but found nothing, the other has disappeared. I thought I looked carefully through them at the time.

Goodbye. Thank you for writing to me and for calling on Cousin Mary. With ever so much love,

Your own, May.